

No. R-291. House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the U.S. government's 1916 deployment of the Vermont National Guard to the Mexican Expedition.

(H.C.R.218)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, and Jerman of Essex

Whereas, in the aftermath Mexico's revolution that started in 1910, rival political factions emerged under the leadership of Francisco "Pancho" Villa and Venustiano Carranza, and

Whereas, in October 1915, the U.S. Government recognized Carranza as Mexico's leader and provided assistance that helped facilitate a major Carranza victory over Villa in the Battle of Agua Prieta, and

Whereas, on January 11, 1916, Mexican forces removed 16 Americans from a train near Santa Isabel and killed them, and, on March 9, 1916, Villa's men attacked the U.S. Army's Camp Furlong in Columbus, New Mexico, and eight American soldiers and ten civilians perished, and

Whereas, on March 15, 1916, U.S. General John Pershing led a force of three provisional brigades into Mexico in search of Villa and, on March 29, 1916, the Americans encountered the "Villistas," as they were called, at the Battle of Guerrero, and over 75 Mexicans were killed or wounded, and

Whereas, the National Defense Act of 1916 established the U.S. National Guard, and, pursuant to this new law, on June 18, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson mobilized National Guard units from 45 states (the militia of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas having been called previously), and

Whereas, Colonel Ira L. Reeves took initial charge of administering the deployment of the Vermont Guardsmen, and

Whereas, numerous logistic and administrative difficulties ensued, but eventually Vermont National Guard personnel reached Eagle Pass, Texas, and

Whereas, despite these problems, U.S. Colonel Morgan of the Inspector General's department complimented the Vermont forces as "the best National Guard regiment at Eagle Pass," and

Whereas, within a few months, the Vermonters were homeward bound, without having crossed into Mexico or confronting Mexican forces, but having gained important military training that proved valuable in World War I, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the centennial anniversary of the U.S. government's 1916 deployment of the Vermont National Guard to the Mexican Expedition, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Historical Society.